As a follow up measure a Steering Committee has been set up to evolve a Mission Mode project based on the recommendations of the said workshop and suggest ways means for interation, coordination and resource mobilization.

A decision has also been separately taken by the Government to set up Community Inforamtion Centres (CICs) with full Internet Connectivity in all the blocks of the Uttrarakhand region along the lines of a similar decision taken for North-East and Sikkim in January, 2000.

India's Effort to Become Super Power In It Sector

3344. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be Pleased to state:

(a) whether India is making efforts to become a Super Power in the field of Information Technology;

(b) whether I.T. industry witnessed a 38 percent growth to touch Rs.33,052 crore in 1999-2000 according to the survey conducted by Dataquest;

(c) if so, which are the five biggest companies (rank-wise) emerged as top groups in I.T. industry during 1999-2000 and which made significant contributions towards total I.T. revenue; as well as to compete with other countries of the world; and

(d) what efforts are being made to make the I.T. useful to the public in general and to popularise it in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Government has a vision to make India a Super Power in the area of Information Technology by 2008.

(b) As per information available with the Government computer hardware and software industry registered a growth of 45.5% during the year 1999-2000 over the the previous year to reach a level of Rs.26,850 crores. The growth projections in the survey conducted by the "Datequest' have been placed at 38% to touch Rs.33,052 crores. The difference in the two figures is because the survey conducted by Dataquest also includes industry segments like maintenance, training and others.

(c) Government has not maintained any such ranking.

(d) Govrnment policy encourages existing STD/ISD/PCOs to be upgraded into Cybercafe/Kiosks which will facilitate for internet access, e-mail and public data base.

Ministry of Information Technology has initiated the following projects for extending the benefits of Information Technology to rural areas:

(i) Village Information Centre

(ii) Community Information Centre

(iii) Land Record Computerosation Project.

(iv) Computerised Rural Development Sytstem Project (CRISP)

The Working Group on Information Technology for Masses set up by the Ministry of Information Technology has in its report submitted to the Government recommended:-

(i) It infrastructure in 60,000 schools over a period of five years.

(ii) Hundred million Internet connection and one million It Kiosks to enable a common man to have access to Internet/It Services.

(iii) Development of Indian Language content over Internet.

Ministry of Information Technology is implementing the Employment Generation Training Scheme (EGTS) to provide employment oriented training for education of youth to fill up the shortage of trained personnel in the North East and also cater for the weaker sections in the other regions of the country.

Government is setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at the 487 blocks in the North East Region including Sikkim. An in principle decision has also taken to extend this scheme to certain other regions of the country subject to administraive and financial constraints. The CIC will faciliate:-

* Internet access at Block level

* Citizen Interface at Block level

* Lnad records and other databases or regional usage

* Computer training at Block level.